

APPROVED: Meeting No. 26-96

ATTEST: *Paula J. Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 17-96

April 16, 1996

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on April 16, 1996 at 7:32 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison

Councilmember Robert J. Wright

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn and City Clerk Paula Jewell.

Also in attendance were Deputy City Manager Julia Novak, Assistants to the City Manager Thomas Edwin Thomas and Michelle Martin, Acting Director of Community Services Terry Treschuk and Community Service Program Manager Mary Lou Jacobs.

Re: Worksession with the Human  
Needs and Services Advisory  
Task Force (HNASATF)

The Mayor and Council met with HNASATF Chairman Rusty Wallace and members Eleanor Northway (Vice Chairperson), Geoffrey Becker, Marjorie Collins, William Goodwin, Viola Hovsepian, David L'Heureux, Donna Perry, Art Rossi, Richard Rothenberg, Anne Taylor, and Frances Vaughan. Members Bob Lane and Jack Young

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were unable to be present. Also present were Howard University School of Social Work Professor Philip Schervish, the consultant who assisted the Task Force, and Community Services Intern Sharon Merisotis. The Task Force's final report, "Maximizing Community Resources" was discussed as well as some of the major recommendations.

1. Establishment of an ongoing Human Services Advisory Commission - This commission would monitor changes in human needs, assist in prioritizing human needs, evaluating human services that receive City funding, and ensure that human services are provided in a cost-effective manner.

2. Development of a "Community Chest" - HNASATF recommended that the City develop creative initiatives for generating increased revenue for human services, including the development and implementation of some form of "community chest." Mr. Kuckkahn reported that one of the new Assistants to the City Manager would be developing a proposal to establish a community chest. (The proposal will be presented at a future worksession). Councilmember Dorsey said that he liked the idea of a community chest; however, he cautioned against offending other service providers, e.g., United Way. Mayor Krasnow said that she also liked the idea of developing a community chest; however, she said it might be difficult to develop a policy on the community chest because, technically, Rockville was not a provider of social services.

Regarding the recommendation to appoint an advisory commission, Mayor Krasnow noted that accountability would be one issue that would have to worked out. She

also questioned whether the advisory group would have enough work to stay busy.

Geoffrey Becker suggested that the advisory commission could oversee the human services staff and operations. The Mayor and Council generally favored the idea of a commission and they agreed that it would be important that it include some of the HNASATF members in order to provide continuity.

Staff was directed to begin work on the formation of a commission and follow through. The Mayor and Council asked that staff pursue the following points regarding the establishment of an commission:

1. Does the City indeed need a commission?
2. If so, a policy statement would need to be developed
3. What type of commission is needed (i.e., advisory)
4. How to go about developing such a policy

Mr. L'Heureux suggested forming a five member commission who would develop a policy statement for the Mayor and Council to adopt and then appoint an ongoing commission. The Mayor and Council will meet separately with Mr. Wallace and Ms. Northway to discuss the idea of a 5-member commission. Mr. Wallace pointed out the success the City had in the area of human services. Mr. Rothenberg commented that the work of HNASATF had been an educational experience for HNASATF members.

The Worksession with the Human Needs and Services Advisory Task Force adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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Re: Worksession with Rockville Arts  
Place (RAP)

The Mayor and Council met with the Rockville Arts Place Board of Directors Bob Roseman (Co-President), John Gilfrich (Treasurer), Executive Director Christine Adams, Susan Sharp (Co-President), Judy Greenberg (Secretary and founding President), and Teresa Lachin (Cultural Historian). Also present were Assistant Arts Supervisor Kathleen Moran and Arts Program Supervisor Betty Wisda.

Mr. Rosen referenced the Master Plan for the Arts and highlighted those areas of the Plan where RAP succeeded in fulfilling the goals of the City. RAP was recommending that the funding to RAP be continued and that RAP continue to seek non-monetary in-kind support. Mr. Rosen talked about RAP's various fundraising efforts. RAP regularly availed themselves of public/private partnerships, and was growing and giving something back to the community while others were closing their doors. Ms. Greenberg commented that her connections at the Kreuger Museum have been because of RAP's reputation as a premier arts place.

Ms. Adams spoke about RAP's community programs: the Arts Unplugged Coffee House, a new program to encourage high school students to explore performing arts, music, poetry and studio arts in a coffeehouse setting; the After School Enrichment Block Grant Program, community outreach through the use of volunteers and interns, and the Community Beacon Student Service Learning program.

Mr. Rosen said that participants in RAP's programs were increasing (e.g.,

Art For A Steal, etc.). Mayor Krasnow noted that the funding turnover for RAP over the last two years had been extraordinary. Two years ago, the Mayor and Council stressed that RAP had to go out and obtain fund and, the Mayor noted, RAP has accomplished this. RAP would like the City to maintain or increase the \$50,000 funding in Fiscal year 1997.

Mayor Krasnow commented that the arts education programs and other RAP programs were impressive; however, she said that the City had a funding plan to cut back on RAP's contributions. The issue was whether the City should cut back funding this year to \$40,000 as planned. Mr. Kuckkahn said that the \$10,000 margin was fairly small and had little impact. He noted that he would recommend in his budget that the City continue with the 5-year plan towards a phasing out of funds.

Mr. Rosen asked that the Mayor and Council not just look at the organization as it was formerly operated. He suggested that they consider where RAP was headed and also consider the positive value that RAP programs were providing to the residents and to the community. Ms. Adams added that RAP had paid \$16,000 in property taxes this year, and in 1997, their taxes will be \$30,000. Mayor Krasnow pointed out that as needs become more pressing and funds become tighter, the Mayor and Council will have a difficult decision.

The Worksession with the Rockville Arts Place adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

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Re: Worksession with  
Historic District  
Commission (HDC)

The Mayor and Council met with Historic District Commission Chairman Don Crawford and Commission members Dean Brenneman, Alice Kelly, Robert Mullinax, and Anita Neal Powell. Also present were Director of Community Development Neal Herst, Chief of Planning Lisa Rother, and Planner II Regine Charles-Bowser. The following issues were discussed:

1. Time frame for map amendments for historic designation of City properties - The Commission met this evening and decided to recommend the following to the Planning Commission:

(a) Woottons Mill Park (the four acres of City property) - HDC recommends a site plan for this park. Commissioners are in general agreement to the designs and would like a cursory review of the facades.

(b) Glenview - HDC finds it difficult to understand why this is not in the historic district.

(c) King Farm and Jacquelin Williams Park - These are new developments. The development plan for the King Farm includes plans to designate the property for historic designation.

2. Notification Process - There is a conflict between wanting to provide residents with the right to file applications as late as possible and giving neighboring

property owners more advanced notice when a property is being considered for designation. Suggestion was made that one solution might be to establish a requirement that a sign be posted on the property at the time the application is filed. Applicants should also be required to talk to their neighbors before the sign is obtained. Councilmember Harrison suggested that staff explore ideas such as listing in Rockville Reports, those addresses which are under consideration for historic designation and running the list of applications for historic designation on the City's Cable Television Bulletin Board.

3. Historic District expansion for private properties and priorities for implementation - Should areas proposed for expansion be done by block, area, or be site specific? Ms. Kelly said that she felt strongly that the Mayor and Council should provide budgetary funding for educational programs that would help to inform residents whose homes have been researched for historic designation and to educate those homeowners on the significance of having their properties historically designated and the tax benefits that can be derived from having the historic designation. Residents should also be encouraged to request that their properties be designated as historic. Councilmember Harrison suggested that HDC work with the City's Cable and Public Information staff on producing an educational video for this effort.

Councilmember Dorsey suggested that residents currently residing in historic districts could be used to help promote and educate others about the benefits and processes involved in obtaining the designation. Ms. Kelly pointed out that the City should lead by

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example; she noted the fact that the Glenview Mansion and other City properties were not designated. Councilmember Marrinan said that an implementation plan was needed and he suggested that staff and the HDC work with organizations, e.g., Peerless Rockville, and bring back a plan on how to approach this. It was noted that such a plan was done in 1983 and it may need to be resurrected. Councilmember Harrison suggested that the HDC also get the message to neighborhood associations.

4. Historic District Designation of Chestnut Lodge Property - The HDC recently held an informational public forum on the Chestnut Lodge designation. A major discussion of the meeting was where to draw the historic designation boundary lines and how to reach compromise. Mr. Crawford suggested that a survey be done on this property since it was originally not located in the City.

Mayor Krasnow noted there were developers who have expressed frustration with the HDC and the process. She said that she was concerned about creating a barrier for those persons having to deal with HDC, which was the first part of the process. Staff was asked to help clarify the mission of the HDC and establish a flow chart of how the process works.

5. Article 66B - Proposed Ordinances and Adoption of One Ordinance - In order to bring the City Code into compliance with State law, staff recommended that the City maintain its status as a certified local government by amending the criteria for appointment to the City's Historic District Commission. Two options for offered for the



Mayor and Council's review. HDC suggested that the Mayor and Council adopt the second alternative which maintains that Commissioners fulfill Certified Legal Government (CLG) status. Among other benefits, CLG status would make the HDC eligible for certain State grants. CLG status requires that two HDC members possess professional or academic training. Mayor Krasnow asked whether the Ordinance should also include a requirement that one member of the HDC be an attorney. The HDC recommended that the City's requirements remain the same as State law. Staff was instructed to bring forth the Ordinance for introduction at a future General Session.

6. Commission Training - Mr. Crawford inquired about the plans to conduct orientation and training for board and commission members. Mayor Krasnow noted that staff was finalizing training and orientation materials which will be presented to boards and commission in the near future. HDC members also expressed an interest in having its members take advantage of training on preservation principals and policies at the local, state, national, and regional levels. The Maryland Historical Trust provides many such educational meetings, workshops and conferences.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the Worksession adjourned at approximately 11:20 p.m.